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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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<b>COUNTRY</b>	Bulgaria	<b>REPORT</b>	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Atomic Research Center near Sofia	<b>DATE DISTR.</b>	7 January 1957
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

three short reports on the Atomic Research Center 5-6 kilometers

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southeast of Sofia

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Bulgaria

Experimental Scientific Center for Atomic Studies



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1. An experimental center for atomic studies is allegedly under construction in Sofia and covers an area of two hectares. The complex which will be built in stages, and not part of the city of Sofia, will include four main buildings in addition to various other installations/<sup>in</sup> which will be located the institute and the ~~phx~~ experimental physics center, and is intended for use in experimental research and the peaceful use of atomic power.

2. The USSR will supply an experimental reactor as well as fissionable (?) material necessary for the reactor.

3. Bulgaria produces uranium ore which, however, is exported to the USSR where ~~at~~ fissionable material is extracted for the experimental reactor.

4. Bulgaria at present has facilities for processing uranium ore but no equipment for transforming the uranium ore into fissionable (?) material.

5. It appears that also in the future Bulgaria because of the lack of facilities, will continue to send to the USSR its uranium production, and the USSR will send to Bulgaria the fissionable material. This is accordance with the plans of the Central Institute of the Nuclear Research of the eastern block countries located in Moscow.



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Bulgaria  
Atomic Research Institutes

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1. In accordance with agreements concluded between the USSR and several satellite countries which provide for the creation of atomic research centers in the various countries, work ~~was started in Bulgaria~~ of this type has started in Bulgaria to which no publicity has been given.

2. Bulgarian installations are being ~~directly~~ erected approximately 5 kilometers southeast of Sofia, and according to plans will be completed by 1 July 1957. The center will have, among other things, a reactor and a cyclotron.

3. Construction work is still in its initial stages. A building approximately 40 meters long and 12 meters wide has now been completed up to its third floor. In addition to this there are four other buildings at various points of construction. Reinforced concrete columns approximately 2 meters high, which will apparently serve for holding up a barbed wire fence, ~~surrounding~~ the entire area, which is approximately 750 x 700 x 800 meters. The entire area is located in a plain.

4. Construction plans were made by the Central Institute for Construction of Plans, ~~Glavproekt~~ Glavproekt, under the direction of the architects Vasklov and Petko Kantardzhiev. The architect Zham Gozov took part as advisor. The above plans prior to being started were sent to the USSR where they were checked and approved.

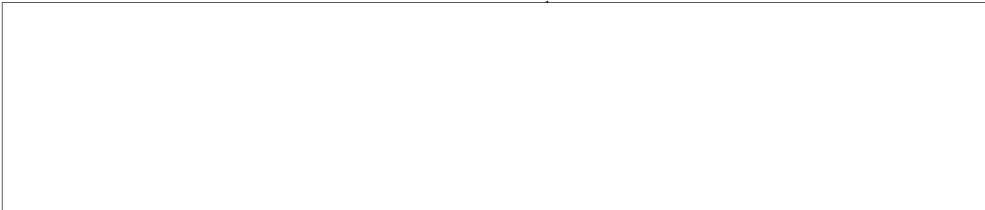
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Bulgaria  
The Sofia Atomic Center

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1.  the Sofia Atomic Center under construction in a series of buildings whose bordering walls are now being erected. This installation is located approximately 6 kilometers southeast of Sofia, exactly 2 kilometers northwest of the Sofia-Plovdiv and Sofia-Samokov crossroads.

2. The construction of this installation is proceeding at a rapid pace even though quite a few difficulties have arisen because of the lack of "heavy" concrete.

3. The area where these buildings are located is starting to be surrounded by a high, reinforced concrete fence which  shortly  will be surrounded by a protective wall which will make it impossible to observe the installations.

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4. The installations cover a rectangular area whose wider side is adjacent to the Sofia-Plovdiv highway and is 900 meters in length.

5. The constructions appear to be grouped in three distinct blocks which would presumably correspond to: (a) buildings for the atomic reactor in the eastern section; (b) workshop of the scientific experimental base on the west side; (c) institute of physics in the central block.

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6. The building in which the atomic reactor will allegedly ~~will~~ be placed has  the following dimensions: 30 meters in length, 20 meters in width and 16 meters in height.

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7. Allegedly the technical equipment to be installed in the center is already arriving from the USSR accompanied by specialized personnel charged with taking care of the assembly which should be started in the coming year.

8. The center will be equipped with a nuclear reactor with a power of 2,000 kilowatts and a cyclotron whose characteristics are unknown.

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